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that the anomalous restriction might be removed as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

66. *Disabilities of the Pulayas.*

Mr P. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that the Pulayas were labouring under several disabilities. They were not allowed even a fraction of the liberties and privileges which the other communities enjoyed. He said that the community was very grateful for the solicitude of the Government for their welfare generally and for the benefits so far conferred, which were calculated to improve their condition, especially in the matter of education. By a steady continuance of the sympathetic policy of the Government, the Member felt sure that the disabilities of the community would be a thing of the past, in the course of some years.

In the matter of education, the Pulayas were in a very backward condition. The Government had issued a Proceedings ordering the admission of the Pulayas into some of the Sirkar Schools. That was a great encouragement to the community. But, in spite of the orders, it was a regrettable circumstance that the Pulayas could *not* get access into some of the schools which had been thrown open, and the community, being too poor and weak, could not assert themselves and secure admission. He requested that the Government should *enforce* their admission into such schools, and where, for any reasons, the schools could not be thrown open to the Pulayas, special schools should be established for them by the Government. In other countries, there were Night Schools. After the regular school-hours, the Pulayas might be given instruction in technical and industrial subjects in the same schools at night. Such Night Schools should be opened wherever there was convenience. The pay of the teachers in the Special Pulaya Schools should be improved, and increased grants allowed to the Pulaya schools that had already been opened by such philanthropic gentlemen as Mr. A. Govinda Pillai and Mr. Marthandan Tampi or that might hereafter be opened. Special encouragement should also be given to the Pulaya boys in the shape of scholarships and other concessions. A few among the Pulayas had passed the Middle School Examination. They might be appointed in the Night Schools, and also otherwise encouraged by being given suitable appointments in the other branches of the service. There were some Departments which were specially suited to the Pulayas, such as the Excise Department. The Pulayas might be more largely appointed in those

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Departments. Some of the peons' places in the Pulaya Wards attached to the medical institutions might also be given to them. There was every likelihood of the Pulayas attending on the Pulaya patients better than the peons of other castes. The Member said that, in these and other ways, the community could be encouraged and he added that, unless special facilities were afforded and active efforts taken by the Government, there was no hope of the community advancing in civilisation and enlightenment.

The Member next said that, in some places such as Mavelikara and Kartigapalli, the Pulayas were not allowed to walk along the roads freely, or go to the market. The trouble, he said, came not from the higher castes, such as Brahmins or Sudras, but from the castes immediately above them, that is, those who had 20 feet pollution distance. The Police and the Excise subordinates also ill-treated the community in some places. Their huts in the forests were often set fire to and it was not possible for them either to take complaints or to prove the charge. If the Superintendent of Police had instructions in the matter, he was hopeful that things would improve in that respect. In the matter of medical relief also, the Pulayas experienced considerable difficulty. It was only in a few hospitals that there were Pulaya wards. There should be such wards in all important institutions. The Medical Officers did not treat them with any consideration. They had to wait till all the other out-patients had been served, and then some medicines would be thrown to them from a distance. He said that that was the case particularly in the General Hospital. One or two Pulaya lunatic patients were also denied admission into the Asylum. They also failed to get proper justice from the Courts. Their complaints were often not properly heard and disposed of. In some places, the Pulayas were not allowed admission to the Courts, but had to stand out at a distance, and their statements were being taken through a third person and their complaints thrown out. He mentioned as instances the Changanacherry and Shertallai Magistrates' Courts. He said that, if only the subordinate officers of the Departments were half as solicitous as the heads, there would have been no room for complaint on the part of the Pulayas. He requested that the Government should view their condition sympathetically and take such action as they might deem necessary for giving the community the needed relief.

Dewan's reply.—The representations made by the Member are noted. The question of increasing the number of Pulaya wards in the Sirkar hospitals will be considered.

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The Member is requested to send to the Chief Secretary to Government a list of the passed men among the Pulayas, and the Government will see what can be done for them.

Member.—The Member then thanked the Government for allowing the interests of the Pulayas to be represented, for the first time, at the Assembly, and he requested that one from the Pulayas themselves might be permitted to attend the Assembly and represent the wants of the community at the next Session, if the people had no objection and the Government were also inclined to grant the prayer.

The Dewan then ascertained the sense of the Assembly on the request made by Mr. Govinda Pillai. As the Members unanimously stated that they had no objection to the request being granted, the Dewan said that a Pulaya Member would be allowed to represent *direct* the grievances of the community, at the next Session of the Assembly.

LOCAL SUBJECTS.

(1) DEVIKULAM DIVISION.

67. ***Construction of roads and bridges in Anjanad.***

Mr. V. Kuppuswami Pillai (Member, Devikulam Taluk) said that travellers and traders suffered much inconvenience on account of the absence of proper roads in Anjanad and he requested the Government to construct a road from Marayur to Vattavadai, passing through all the villages of Anjanad, and also to construct the necessary bridges.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

68. ***Letting out water from the Talliar Dam.***

Mr. V. Kuppuswami Pillai (Member, Devikulam Taluk) said that about 859 acres of wet land in Marayur and 200 acres in Nachivayal were fit for raising only one crop, owing to want of water. He therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to construct the following works, *viz.*, (1) a channel 8 miles long from Talliar and another 4 miles long from Katumallay; (2) a canal from the Kudalar to benefit the villages of Kanthallur, Karayur, Puthur, Perumalai, etc. He also requested that the existing channels irrigating the above lands should be repaired.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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